Stage 3

AK!!!
WHY THE HELL DOES A ROOKIE MODEL LIKE YOU, THINK YOU CAN THRIVE AT TOUKORE?
YOU THINK YOU CAN AIM TO BE A MODEL IN MAGAZINES LIKE US RIGHT OFF THE BAT? OR FROM THE VERY BEGINNING?
UGHH! YOU CAN'T JUST SAY THAT
WHICHEVER IS FINE!?
MMMM WHICHEVER IS FINE!! IN MAGAZINES OR ON RUNWAYS!!

WHAT!?
OH NO THE PRESIDENT IS CALLING ME!!
BYE!!
NE
I'M AIMING TO BECOME THE WORLD'S BEST MODEL
I'M, SO, PISSED...
What's with that! What the hell?
SFX: RAGE
CALM DOWN, NANAMI.
OH, YUI!!

HEY, YUI!!
YOU THINK IT'S WEIRD TOO, RIGHT!!?
TH-THANK YOU.
CONGRA-TULATIONS ON GETTING INTO TOUKORE!

IN JAPAN, THE BRIGHTEST SHINING MODEL OF TODAY THE CHARISMA MODEL NIIZATO YUI
ON THIS SIDE THE POTATO-SMELLING OR THE COUNTRY BUMPKIN UNKNOWN ROOKIE MODEL
SFX: BISO
WHY ARE THESE TWO BEING PRESENTED ON THE SAME STAGE.
AND NANAMI?
HAS LOST IT.
SFX: KACHA
..MAYBE I SHOULD CALL
I KNOW HIM,
THE SHOW'S PRODUCER KATADA-SAN.
..WHAT WILL YOU DO IF YOU CALL?
IT SEEMS THAT HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING SO I WILL FILL HIM IN
STOP ACTING SO DISGRACEFUL
It seems like Nanami is the one who doesn't understand.

Oh!!
YOU LOOK FANTASTIC NE IT REALLY SUITS YOU!
I DON'T THINK IT WOULD BE AS INTERESTING IF THOSE BEAUTIFUL WOMEN WORE IT, NE-N
HEY, TRY THAT ONE ON, TOO!!
Please, please
KAZU, PLEASE PROPERLY LOOK AT THE OTHER MODELS TOO
I didn't see myself reflected in Kaz's eyes at the audition
If you look at Aki, you will see why she was chosen.
AKI!!

It's a stranger thing for me to be chosen.
YUI!!
GOOD WORK!!
A-GROUP ALSO FINISHED REHEARSAL EARLY TODAY!!
WE ONLY HAVE A WEEK UNTIL THE REAL THING
IT MAKES YOU NERVOUS, RIGHT--!!
.....
....YEAH, I GUESS SO
IT'S ALMOST TIME RIGHT?
FOR NAOKO-SAN, TOO
WHAT?
YOU SURPRISED ME!
TN: NAOKO-SAN IS YUI'S MOTHER; FORMER MODEL AND PRESIDENT OF THE COMPANY

TO RISE UP IN A NEW COMPANY.
WHAT IS THIS?
THAT INDEPEN-DENCE~ IT'S AMAZING!!
AND ON TOP OF THAT YOU HAVEN'T SAID ANY-THING!!
IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU AND THAT PREPARATION THAT I'M HERE NOW...
I didn't know.
AH,
IT'S GREEN...
SFX: TURN

What you were saying...
—THAT'S THE WAY IT IS
"THAT'S THE WAY IT IS"...
I HAVEN'T HEARD ANY OF THIS.
IF YOU REMAIN HERE,
I WILL START RISE UP IN MY OWN COMPANY."
THAT "I AM INDEPENDENT FROM THIS COMPANY
AK! WILL CONTINUE WITH YOU, BUT,
EVEN IF YOU ARE NOT WITH ME, PLEASE DO YOUR BEST!
WH,
WHY.

WHAT IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
THAT IS,
EVEN THOUGH I'M YOUR MOTHER,
YOU KNOW THAT YOU'RE NUMBER ONE, RIGHT?
I BELIEVE, IN BUSINESS ONE CANNOT BE TRAPPED BY THEIR OWN FEELINGS
I KNOW THAT!!
IF IT'S ME...
I WILL WITHDRAW FROM THIS COMPANY.
BUT...
That is not what I wanted to talk to you about

Why don't you need me?
Why did you choose Aki...?
IF YOU GO ON LIKE THIS, YOU WILL LOSE TO AKI.
YOU DO UNDERSTAND HOW IMPORTANT THIS IS, RIGHT?
FOR MODELS, THERE IS NO BIGGER THING THAN TO BE CHOSEN BY THE COSMETICS INDUSTRY
SIMPLY PUT,
IF THERE IS A BETTER MODEL THAN YOU AT TOUKORE,
I DON'T KNOW HOW IT WILL TURN OUT.
HUH?
BUT,
THE FINAL SELECTION WILL DEPEND ON,
THE CHARACTER FOR SHISEIKAN'S CM,
YOUR FAME MAKES YOU A BETTER CANDIDATE
THE TOUKORE SHOW.

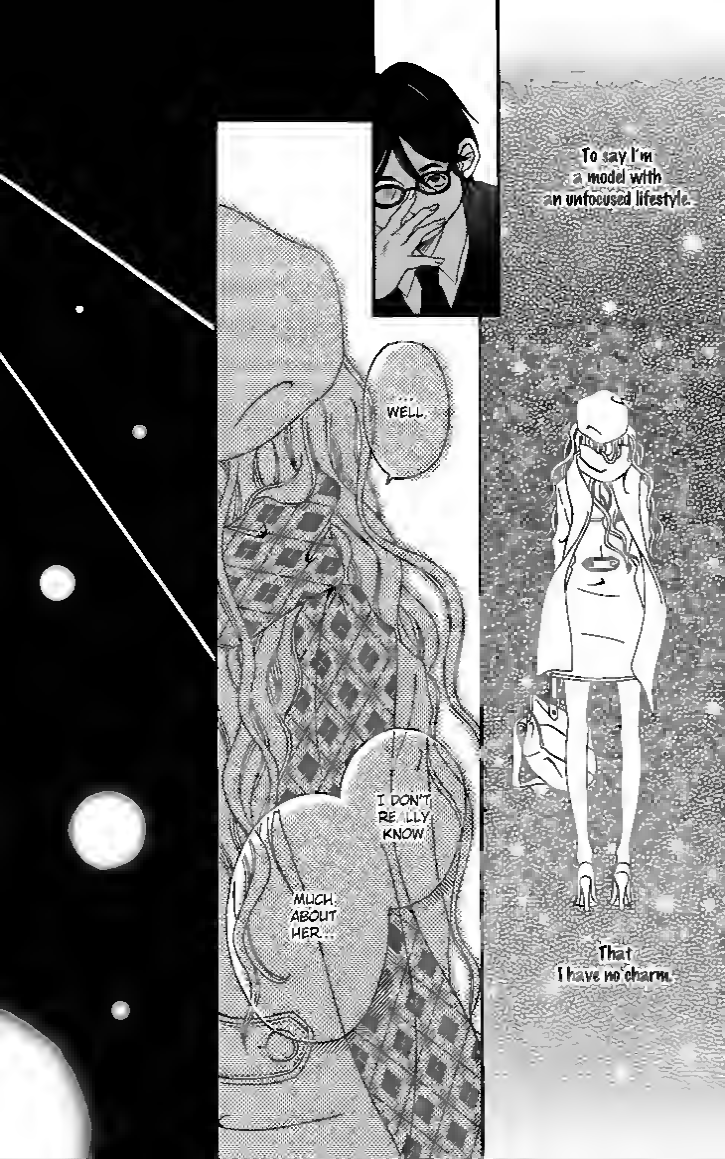
I KNOW! SO WHY WILL I LOSE TO AKI!?
IF YOU DON'T REALIZE IT, THAT'S FINE
IT'S NOT FINE
YOU'RE UNFOCUSED.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN THIS"!?
Th'y....
OF COURSE RIGHT NOW IN TERMS OF CAREER AND POPULARITY
YOU ARE MILES AHEAD

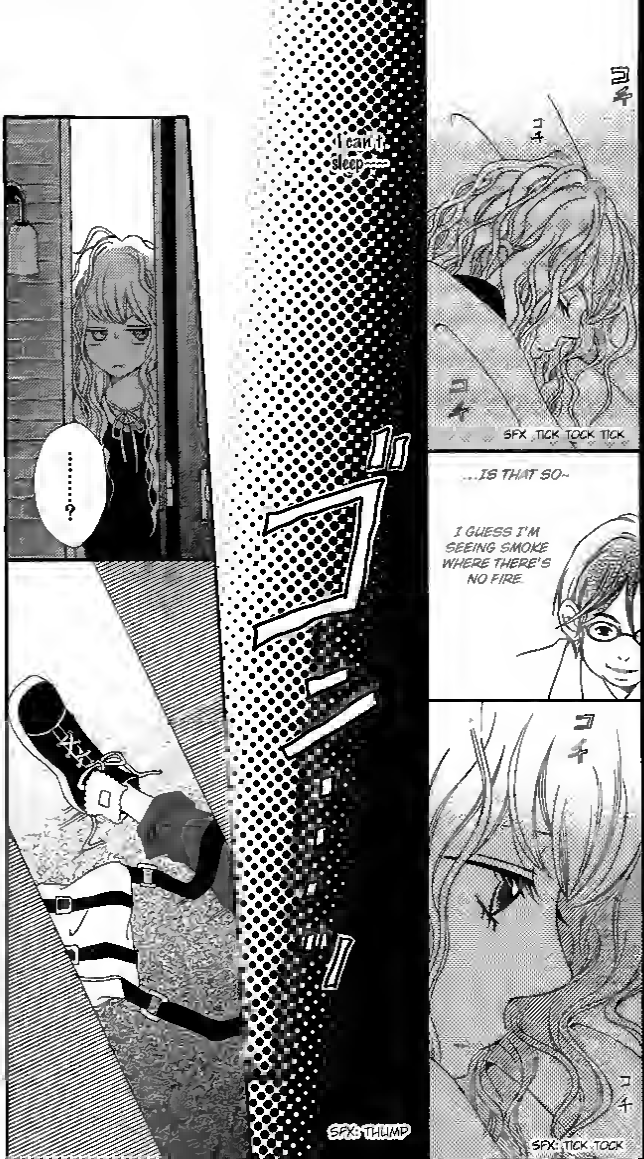
BUT,
LATELY, IT SEEMS TO ME,
THAT YOU'VE BEEN WEAKENING
BUT,
THERE ARE PROBABLY PEOPLE THAT THINK IT'S FINE AS LONG AS YOU'RE POPULAR
MODELS WHO HAVE AN UNFOCUSED LIFESTYLE,
HAVE NO CHARM
...NOT EVEN A LITTLE.

I am not unfocused,
To say I'm unfocused is just
What do you think I've been sacrificing everything as a model for until now?
Don't just say whatever you want
YUI-SAN?
AT LEAST, TO ME
... What are you saying?
「CAN YOU PLAY TODAY, YUI?」
「SORRY, I HAVE A BALLET LESSON.」
What do I have to show you?
IT SEEMS LIKE WE'RE PARTING.

I AM TOUKORE'S PRODUCER, KATADA
HELLO, I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU
AH, IT REALLY IS YUI-SAN!!
PERFECT TIMING. I AM ALSO HEADED TO THAT COMPANY RIGHT NOW.
DO YOU HAVE LITTLE TIME RIGHT NOW?
I HAVE SOMETHING THAT I WANT TO ASK YOU.
IT'S ABOUT YANAGIDA AKI-SAN...
...WHAT IS IT?
WELL, UM...IT'S JUST BETWEEN THE TWO OF US, BUT,
I JUST GOT A CALL FROM SOMEONE IN THE INDUSTRY...
EY
EY
EY
SHE
DID SOMETHING DANGEROUS IN THE PAST
IS IT TRUE?

YUI-SAN,
YOU WOULD ALSO BE DAMAGED BY THIS...
...MAYBE I SHOULD CALL.
Nanami...
She was serious...
WELL, IT'S NOT OUR RIGHT TO CHOOSE THE MODELS, BUT,
IF WE PUT A PROBLEM CHILD IN OUR SHOW, THEN,
IT WILL BE OUR RESPONSIBILITY FOR NOT DOING THE RESEARCH BEFOREHAND
IF YOU GO ON LIKE THIS, YOU WILL LOSE TO AKI
WELL, THAT'S...
Are you listening?
. YUI-SAN?
EH,
AH... UH...


To say I'm a model with an unfocused lifestyle.
That I have no charm.
...WELL.
I DON'T RE LLY KNOW
MUCH ABOUT HER...


I can't sleep...
.....?
SFX: THUMP
SFX: TICK TOCK TICK
...IS THAT SO~
I GUESS I'M SEEING SMOKE WHERE THERE'S NO FIRE
SFX: TICK TOCK

AH—
YUI, WELCOME HOME~~
*TAN: AKI SAYS "OKAERI" (WELCOME HOME) INSTEAD OF TADAIMA (I'M BACK).
HEY! SUZUKI!! YOU'VE GOTTEN GREENER SINCE I LAST SAW YOU~
IT'S OK, IT'S OK!!
... WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING? THE SHOW IS SO CLOSE...
*TAN: SUZUKI IS THE PLANT.
THE DIET DOESN'T MATTER ANYMORE,
It's I'm back right?
WH.. ARE YOU OK!?
HOW MUCH DID YOU DRINK!?
MMM~ I OPENED A 1 LITRE BOTTLE OF SAKE~~AFTER THAT~~~WHAT WAS IT~?

HUH...
I DON'T REALLY FIT IN WITH THE IMAGE OF THE SHOW!!
I WAS DROPPED FROM THE TOUKORE SHOW
FROM THE BEGINNING I THOUGHT IT WAS STRANGE,
THAT I SOMEHOW GOT TOUKORE?
uhehe
BECAUSE OF THAT, I WAS ABLE TO EAT SO MANY YUMMY THINGS TODAY. I'M SO HAPPY----
mumble mumble
BUT— IT'S GOOD!!
ズキン
The real reason you were let go was...
You're wrong!
SFX: THROB THROB THROB

AKI
WATER
...Well
I don't really know much about her...
スー...
SFX ZZZZZ...
Tan.
...N.

I REALLY WANTED
TO STAND ON THE SAME STAGE WITH YUI.
NA.
...ARE YOU A.
...FOOL.

I couldn't protect you.

You didn't do anything wrong.

I didn't mean to hurt you.

AKI TRIED SO HARD EVEN THOUGH SHE KNEW I WAS NUMBER ONE...
OH,
GOOD MORNING, YUI.

FROM TODAY I AM AKI'S SUBSTITUTE AT
KATADA-SAN.
I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT YESTERDAY.
THAT GOSSIP...
'MORNING.

#7
カツ
カツ
カツ
カツ…
—NANAMI,
...GO GOOD MORNING...
CAN YOU NOT LOOK AT ME WITH DIGNITY?

IF YOUR HEART LOOKS FOR A BYPASS,
—AND, YUI,
SFX UM.
THEN SOMEDAY YOU WILL LOSE SIGHT OF YOUR TRUE SELF
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING ...?
.....
IF YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT TRIVIAL THINGS,
IT WILL BE YOU THAT GETS BURNED
...? WHAT IS THIS ABOUT ...?
IT'S ABOUT YOU REMOVING AKI.
YOU'RE HAPPY, RIGHT?
THAT AKI IS OUT.

IT'S TOO BAD,
THAT YOU ARE THAT KIND OF LOW-LEVEL MODEL.
BAR
Oh no, money...
It's ok. Kensuke is here.
MAYBE I SHOULD JUST GIVE UP.

*T/N KATSUKI MEANS, IT'S PAST MIDNIGHT, SO THE DATE ON HIS PHONE CHANGED

I couldn't say anything
"You're happy right? That Aki is out"
LEAVE ME ALONE...
It was painful that I couldn't protect Aki. It wasn't just the guilt
It was really
That when Aki was removed there was some part of me that was happy
It was scary....
That I had everything taken away,
from Aki...
— OH, THAT'S RIGHT,
IT SEEMS LIKE THAT GIRL WILL APPEAR IN TOUKORE
SINCE SOME MODEL IS OUT BECAUSE OF AN ILLNESS, HER SUBSTITUTE...
SFX: RATTLE

"THAT GIRL",
AKI!?
.....
THAT'S,
OH,
OH... ...IT SEEMS SO, BUT
..HUH?
AKI IS GOING TO APPEAR IN TOUKORE!?
.....
GOOD...

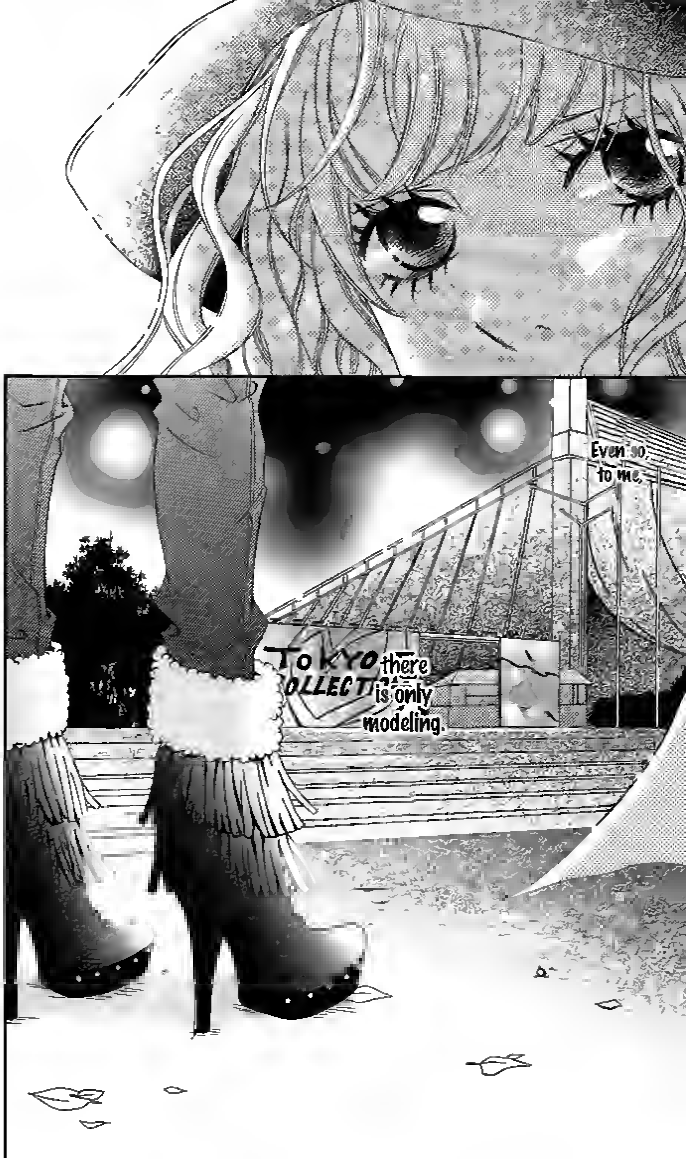
HAHAH
...
ストン
SFX. PLOP
...
HEH,
!?
SORRY, SORRY
THAT'S JUST NOT THE REACTION I EXPECTED
WH, WHAT
SFX. PU PU PU
"IT REALLY HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME"
OR SOMETHING IS WHAT I THOUGHT YOU'D SAY
...DO YOU THINK I'M STUPID?
HMM...
I THINK I'M HAPPY

THAT YOU'RE HONEST,
I DON'T REALLY SEE THAT OFTEN
.....
WHEN I'M WITH YOU,
I ALWAYS,
FEEL LIKE I'M THE KIND OF GUY WHO YOU CAN NEVER EXPECT ANYTHING FROM
—IT'S NOT THAT,
I'M PARTICULARLY DISILLUSIONED

EVEN WHEN YOU
SIGH
I GUESS I'LL HAVE A DRINK
.....
.....
KATSUKI
I...
プルルル

プルルッ
プルルッ
プルルッ
プルルッ
プルルッ
Yanagida Aki
.....
...HURRY AND PICK IT UP
プルルッ
プルルッ
HELLO
Mother's words are stuck in my head

If you go on like this, you will lose to Aki
Surely,
Everyone,
Will choose Aki.
But
SFX BEEP


Even so,
to me,
there
is only
modeling.

BAP SCANS
CREDITS
TRANSLATOR
Onigiri
PROOFREADER
Xobunnyxoxo
CLEANER
Feya
TYPESETTER
Stardust
QUALITY CHECKER
Lily
RUNAWAY NO KOIBITO